Howard College Library

MINUTES

OF THE

Forty-Third Annual Session

OF THE

[illegible] Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

PLEASANT RIDGE CHURCH,

Jefferson County, Alabama,

Sept. 30th, Oct. 1st, and 2d, 1876.

A. J. WALDROP ..... *Moderator.*
[illegible] WALDROP ..... *Clerk.*
[illegible] B. [illegible] ..... *Corresponding Clerk.*
M. E. VANN ..... *Treasurer.*

SPRINGVILLE, ALA.
ENTERPRISE BOOK AND JOB PRINT.
1876.

MINUTES

The delegates from the churches composing the Forty-third Annual session of the Canaan Baptist Association, met with the Pleasant Ridge Church, Jefferson county, Ala., on Saturday, Sept. 30th, 1876, at 11 o'clock A. M.

The introductory sermon was delivered by Elder J. H. Weatherly, from Matt. 6, 33, "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

At 1½ o'clock P. M. the delegates assembled in the church house, and was called to order by Elder A. J. Waldrop. After singing, prayer was offered by the Moderator.

The roll of the churches was then called, letters presented and read by Elder James Grimes and Bro. T. V. B. Moor, and delegates names enrolled as follows:

Ruhama—Elders A. J. Waldrop, E. B. Waldrop and Brothers W. H. Wood and R. W. Beck.

Cahaba—M. K. Vann, J. M. Franklin, D. N. Talley, W. W. Praytor, D. H. Vann.

Village Creek—Elders B. M. Waldrop, Bro. R. T. Waldrop.

Salem—G. W. Cole, J. H. Hagood.

Birmingham Church—Thomas McConaughy.

Rock Creek—H. J. Phillips, J. R. Reeves, T. D. Reeves.

Canaan—Elders James Grimes, W. A. Ross, Bro. John Jacobs.

Mt. Zion—Elders J. H. Weatherly, Bros. A. J. Nunnelly, J. M. Presley, T. V. B. Moor.

Sulphur Spring—J. M. Huey, J. A. Baker.

New Prospect—Elder H. G. Smith, Bros. D. F. Hodges, J. M. Brown.

Good Hope—T. B. Robins, W. P. Hulsey.

Antioch—Virgil A. Wilson.

New Liberty—Elder G. T. Lee, Bro. J. E. Massey.

Pleasant Ridge—R. E. Huey, W. O. M. Franklin, V. A. Goodwin.

Shady Grove, *Ironton*, *Hopewell* and *Enon* churches were not represented.

The Association then proceeded to elect officers, which resulted in the choice of A. J. Waldrop, Moderator; E. B. Waldrop, Clerk; T. V. B. Moor, Corresponding Clerk; M. K. Vann, Treasurer.

On motion a committee of three was appointed to consider the action of the Shady Grove church in receiving into her fellowship and rebaptising W. T. Rogers, he being an excluded member of Rock Creek church. Committee, T. V. B. Moor, M. K. Vann, J. M. Franklin.

HOWARD COLLEGE
LIBRARY

An opportunity was then offered to newly constituted churches wishing to unite with the Association, thereupon the following churches presented letters and delegates:

Chalybeate Spring—Robert Russel, S. A. Russel, J. I. Massey.

Concord—W. W. Conway, M. P. Wilson, J. E. Croswell.

On motion, the churches were received and delegates invited to seats.

On motion, a committee of five were appointed on Devotion, consisting of R. W. Beck, R. E. Huey, W. O. M. Franklin, W. W. Conway, S. B. Wilson.

The committee after a short consultation reported the following:

Saturday—Preaching 2½ o'clock P. M. by Elder J. Mills, at early candle lighting, by Rev. G. T. Lee.

Sunday night, preaching by Rev. A. J. Waldrop.

Monday—At 11 o'clock A. M., preaching by Elder B. M. Waldrop, at 3 P. M. by Elder J. Grimes, at night by Elder W. A. Ross.

In addition to the above the committee appointed a Sabbath School mass meeting on Sabbath at 9½ o'clock A. M. At 2 P. M., a mass meeting for the purpose of considering the state of religion in the bounds of the Association.

Called for correspondence from sister Associations:

From Sulphur Spring—Elder D. L. James.

From North River—Letter and minutes by her messenger Robert Waldrop.

Received and read a communication from the Ruhama Sabbath School, setting forth the statistics and the work of the school in the church; which see in statistical table.

On motion, R. J. Waldrop and A. G. Bates were invited to seats as messengers from said school.

The standing committees having failed to be appointed at the last session of the Association; on motion, the Moderator appointed the following committees to report at this session:

On Education—J. H. Weatherly, E. Y. Daniel, W. P. Hulsey.

On Sabbath Schools—J. M. Franklin, A. J. Nunnelly, M. K. Vann.

On Temperance—R. W. Beck, J. A. Baker, J. M. Huey.

The following temporary committees were also appointed by the Moderator:

On Documents—W. W. Praytor, W. H. Wood, D. H. Vann.

On Arrangement of Business—Elders James Grimes, W. A. Ross, B. M. Waldrop.

On Finance—G. H. Cole, G. T. Lee.

On motion R. J. Waldrop was requested to write out a synopsis of the proceedings of the body at this session, for publication in the Alabama Baptist.

Returned correspondence: Pending this heard a report from the delegates appointed to visit the Mud Creek Association as corresponding messengers, they having withdrawn correspondence from said Association for holding in her union a church which is regarded as irregular in practice. On motion, the action of the delegates was sustained.

Proceeded to appoint correspondents:

Sulphur Spring—Elders J. H. Weatherly, H. G. Smith, W. J. Lee James Grimes, G. T. Lee, E. B. Waldrop.

Warrior River—G. T. Lee, J. E. Massey.

North River—Elders H. G. Smith, B. M. Waldrop, Bro. J. E. Croswell.

Coosa River—A. J. Nunnelley, R. J. Waldrop, R. W. Beck, J. H. Weatherly, W. H. Wood.

Cahaba Valley—Rev. W. L. Watson, Bro. A. J. Nunnelly.

Tuscaloosa—Elder A. J. Waldrop.

Shelby—Elders James Grimes, G. T. Lee, W. A. Ross.

The Baptist State Convention, Elders A. J. Waldrop, James Grimes, W. A. Ross, J. H. Weatherly, G. T. Lee, E. B. Waldrop, B. M. Waldrop, and Bros T. V. B. Moor, A. J. Nunnelly, R. W. Beck, R. J. Waldrop, J. M. Presley, A. G. Bates, W. H. Wood.

On motion of Brother T. V. B. Moor, ordered that the funds raised on Sabbath, after paying the present indebtedness of the Association, be equally divided between the Mission work of Rev. T. M. Baily, State evangelist, and Rev. Willis Burns, Indian Missionary.

Called for the report of R. J. Waldrop, the appointee for writing out a historical sketch of the churches composing the Canaan Association. A verbal report was made in which the difficulties of the task assigned were set forth, a lack of sufficient data prevented a written report. On motion, the report was received and the committee discharged.

It was then stated by some of the brethren present, that it was believed that a complete file of all the minutes of the Association from its organization could be found in the possession of Sister Fuller, of Springville, and also in the hands of Rev. David Lee, some documents relative to the same; on motion, Elder A. J. Waldrop was appointed to write out such facts in regard to the history of the Association and the churches composing the same, as he may deem proper, and read before the body at its next session.

After prayer by Elder H. G. Smith, adjourned to meet 2½ o'clock P. M. Sabbath in a committee of the whole.

SUNDAY, Oct. 1st, 9½ o'clock A. M.

Met in Sabbath School mass meeting; conducted by R. J. Waldrop, who delivered an address upon the duty and importance of

church members engaging in the Sabbath School; an address was made by R. W. Beck upon the same subject. These brethren are both good Sabbath School men and know what they say; it is believed that some good will result from these addresses.

At 11 o'clock A. M. the missionary sermon was delivered by Elder E. B. Waldrop, from Luke 2, 10, "Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." After which a collection was taken up in cash and pledges to the amount of $

At 2 o'clock P. M. the Association met in committee of the whole for the purpose of considering the state of religion in the bounds of the Association. Elder James Grimes was chosen chairman of the meeting. Pastors of churches were requested to make statements in regard to the state of religion in their respective churches. The statements made were such as to inspire greater zeal amoung the churches in working for the conversion of souls. Elder James Grimes made a statement of his disire and intention (D. V.) to spend the remainder of his life in traveling and preaching to the destitute.

Special prayer was then offered, led by Brother R. W. Beck, for Elder Grimes that a kind Providence might direct his steps and spare his life that he may accomplish the desire of his heart.

On motion adjourned.

MONDAY, Oct. 2d, 9 o'clock A. M.

Met according to appointment. Spent half an hour in devotion conducted by R. W. Beck.

Called for report of Committee on Arrangements for Business. The report was received and adopted.

On motion, all visting ministers present not belonging to our body were invited to seats. Elder John Mills, from the Mud Creek Association, being present, accepted the invitation.

Called for the report of the committee appointed on Saturday to look into the irregularity of the Shady Grove church. The committee made the following report, which was adopted:

"We find that the Shady Grove church has committed an error in practice, in receiving W. T. Rogers into her fellowship in an irregular way. We believe that this was done rather hastily, or without proper consideration, not intending to do wrong, and the church desires to do right. We, therefore, recommend the appointment of a committee to visit this church and labor with her, and report to the next meeting of the Association.

T. V. B. MOOR,
J. M. FRANKLIN,
M. K. VANN. } Com.

On motion, a committee of three were appointed by the Moderator to visit said church in regard to the matter. Elders H. G. Smith, James Grimes, and Brother S. T. Huey were appointed such com-

mittee. On motion of G. T. Lee, Elder A. J. Waldrop was added to the committee.

Report on Documents:

Cahaba and Ruhama churches each make an application for the next session of the Association.

A majority of the churches of this body indicate by their accessions a good degree of thrift and life, but a *very* great want in Sabbath Schools.

We recommend a correspondence between our body and the Sabbath Schools within our bounds.

Report on Temperance adopted but not practiced as it should be by our membership, there should be no need of temperance societies outside of the church.

Reports on Missions adopted by the Association not carried out by the churches according to the direction of the apostle, "Let every one of you lay by him in store," etc.

Report on Education adopted, but the lack of education is deplorable among our membership.

Report on Sabbath Schools adopted year after year seems to effect but little among some of our churches; we find only *four* churches out of the eighteen have kept up Sabbath Schools during the year.

We would recommend the *Alabama Baptist* as worthy of the support of *all* our people for the following reasons: For the ability of its editors; for the soundness of its theology, and as a medium of general information.

We would urge the support and use of Kind Words and Baptist Teacher by all our churches and Sabbath Schools.

We regret that so little is known of our history as to render it impossible for Brother R. J. Waldrop to give us a sketch of our history at the present session of our body. We furthermore urge it upon all Baptists to give Elder A. J. Waldrop all the information in their possession in regard to the subject.

We recommend that each church send up at our next session a Financial report. W. W. PRAYTOR, Chairman,

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

It is very plainly taught in the Bible, that Temperance is one of the christian graces. We are to be temperate in talking, in eating, and in work, temperate in our actions, temperate in our thoughts and temperate in what we drink. Now we understand that we are positively and emphatically commanded in the Bible to abstain, totally, from strong drink. Touch not, taste not, handle not, stand not about the unclean and polluting poison. We regard the vice of intemperance as one of the greatest enemies we have to contend with. There are

over 700,000 persons in the United States engaged in the bar-rooms, grog-shops and distilleries, while there are but about 80,000 ministers and school teachers together. Strong drink costs the people of the United States $700,000,000 per annum while the ministers and school teachers cost them about $80,000,000. The ravages wrought by the vice of drunkenness in our land is alarming and our country looks to the churches of Christ for the rescue from the terrible enemy. The youths of our land call upon us with a loud voice to put down this arch fiend and enemy of their hopes and happiness for the future. We recommend that church members strive to up-root this evil in the land, by total abstenance from its use; by, at all times, discountenancing its use in any shape. Let this be our motto: "Touch not, taste not, handle not, stand not about the unclean and polluting poison." Shun, at all times, the very appearance of evil. A church-member can, in no wise, so easily injure his religious character, or bring reproach upon the Master's cause, as to be guilty of intemperance.

R. W. BECK, Chairman.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We consider a Sunday school proper to be an entire church, meeting every Lord's day for the worship of God. Let us examine the teachings of the Psalmist David: "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and he shall strengthen thine heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord." (Ps. 24, 14.) Again: "I was glad when they said unto me Let us go unto the house of the Lord." (Ps. 122, 1.) In early or apostolic days the whole church met on Sabbath to worship. The Bible is full of illustrations and teachings relative to worship on the Sabbath—studying God's word. "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." One party is specially commended by the apostle, the Bereans. Why? Because they searched the scriptures to find out the truth contained in God's holy law. All recognize the importance of Bible study, and we claim that facilities superior to any other are afforded by the Sunday school. We fear that many of the churches are lacking in point of Bible knowledge from a failure in this one feature. We would away with the idea that the Sunday school is a place for children only. It is the place for the whole church every Sabbath; old and young, wise and ignorant, rich and poor; all may come within its pale and be blessed by having a more complete knowledge of scriptures and learning more perfectly the way of life eternal. To those churches having services only once a month, or to those having services every Sabbath, we urge the importance of the Sabbath school; have a session every Sabbath whether your minister is there or not. By thus meeting every Sabbath and studying your Bibles collectively you will obtain a great fund of scriptural knowledge you

would not otherwise possess. We recommend to all schools "Kind Word," published at Macon, Georgia, for children and for adults, the Bible, together with such lesson, helps as may be available. Brethren, we have a great, grand and glorious field for labor. Let us then acquit ourselves like men, and pray God for results.

J. M. FRANKLIN, Chairman.

REPORT OF CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE.

We, your Centennial committee, to whom was committed the Centennial work of the association, met early in November at Trussville church and organized a system which we considered the most expedient for accomplishing the desired object. We invited different men of culture and piety to visit our association at respective churches and present the claims of the Howard endowment to our people. Brethren J. J. D. Renfroe, Jos. Shackelford and W. Wilkes complied. Brother Renfroe was compelled to keep upon the general line of railroads, and consequently could not visit the churches off the railroad line. Brother Shakelford made an extended visit in the bounds of the association, and at some places made Centennial speeches, at others acting merely in the form of an evangelist and presenting with power the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Brother A. J. Waldrop was also asked to visit the churches as much as possible for three months of the year and present the Centennial claims. He did faithful work, and received some cash and pledges. Brother Wilkes met with us at Cahaba church on the 4th day of July and delivered an eloquent gospel speech to a very large and attentive audience. Brother A. J. Waldrop made visits to very nearly all the churches in the association, at some receiving considerable encouragement, at others not so much as was desirable.

Your committee would urge upon the brotherhood of the churches a more thorough and active canvass of their respective churches during the remaing months of the year 1876. The books will be kept open for some time yet, at least two and a half or three months, and we do urge upon every Baptist, in the bounds of the association, to contribute as much as $1 to to the great and grand object. Brethren, let us to the work. Let us acquit ourselves like men, and let us this centennial year make a thank offering to our God, one that will not crumble with the hand of time, but one that is more enduring than brass; one that will stand for ages to bless our posterity and future generations; one that will advance the cause of Christianity and honor and gloryfy God. The contributions have as yet been small. We number in the association about nine hundred members, and we ought and must do more than we have as yet done. There has been collected in cash $, and there are pledges to the amount of $

W. H. WOOD, Chairman.

Like the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, man is born into the world helpless. He is even more helpless than his dog, or his horse. In less than seven years each of these animals come to maturity and reach the highest point of improvement, while the man is yet a very small child, and has only entered upon the scale of improvement. The dog or the horse is all that he ever shall be, and the child is merely budding. Soon as the dog, the horse and the child begin life, they each enter upon their respective spheres, but how different the latter from the two former. The dog and the horse follow their appetites and the orders of their masters; the child eats, drinks and sleeps as they do, but unlike them his little mind begins to thirst and search after knowledge and to soar above the beasts of the field, and longs for a higher and immortal state. Like the dog and the horse he needs a guide and instructor, but he can be led and taught to an indefinite length. The dog and the horse have one road to follow and one life to live; the child has two ways and two existences presented, and he at once sets out on one or the other of these paths—the good or the evil way. God's word tells us plainly he is more prone to follow the evil than the good, yea that he will follow the evil.

Upon these thoughts we ground the necessity of an early and sound religious education. Let it be strickly borne in mind that as soon as the child begins its existence it begins to learn good or evil and that it can be trained even then. Let each parent remember, too, that its moral and intellectual education begins right then; we mean the cultivation of its heart and mind actually begins then, and let it not be forgotten that at every step of the child's course, from boyhood to manhood, he needs the guidance and instructions of the experienced and better informed.

There are three preparatory schools, the home school or school of the family, the common school, and the college. Each of these is absolutely needful; not needful for all men alike, but each man and woman must be educated according to natural capacity and his future sphere of life. All must be edcucated for God and our race, and particularly for what must be his peculiar duties. The family school is the first and most important, the nursery gives direction to the child's life and future. In the family man passes through the most delicate and the critical period of his existence. How absolutely necessary is it, then, that parents should be soundly and carefully aducated, especially the mother!

Next comes the common school and the college. Each of these are equally important; the first meets the general demands of life, and

the latter the highest; none of these should be despised, and our people should advocate and sustain them, by their patronage or influence, or by both.

The Baptists have always been the strong and steady friends of schools and colleges, and have aided by their means in the establishment of schools, academies and colleges. In the United States we have a large number of colleges, many of which are of the highest rank.

Within our bounds we have no school under the immediate charge of this body or our people. But we have in our state several colleges of the first order. At Marion, in Perry county, we have the Howard for our young men, and the Judson for our young ladies. At Tuscaloosa, is the Alabama Female College. These schools have most noble records, and are respectively in charge of those model and loveable men J. T. Murfee, L. R. Gwaltney and John F. Lanneau. Our brethren, in other parts of the state, have built up and are sustaining other good schools of high order.

The Howard especially demands our sympathy and support. In its excellent President and faculty, in its course of studies, and in its improved methods of instruction, it certainly has no superior in America. This year it is calling, through its devoted and untiring agent, Bro. J. J. D. Renfroe, for aid to put it on a safe basis, and in a condition to render substantial aid to worthy and indigent young men. J. H. WEATHERLY, Chairman.

After the adoption of the above report the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we request the pastors of the different churches belonging to this body to continue to keep the claims of the Howard College before the membership.

On motion, adjourned to 1½ o'clock P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder W. A. Ross.

Appointed standing committees:

On Education—E. B. Waldrop, N. D. Talley, W. J. Eubank.

On Temperance—J. H. Weatherly, R. E. Huey, J. A. Baker.

On Sabbath Schools—R. J. Waldrop, J. M. Franklin, T. V. B. Moor.

On Missions—W. T. Parker, N. F. Miles, Thomas McConaughey.

On motion, a Sabbath school committee was then appointed, consisting of R. J. Waldrop, J. M. Franklin, T. V. B. Moor, R. E. Huey, H. F. Wood.

The following resolution was then adopted in regard to Rev. N. W. Blalock:

Resolved, That this Association cannot endorse the said Rev. N. W. Blalock until he shall have produced sufficient testimony to clear up and prove false certain reports circulated against him from the State of Georgia, from which he came.

Appointed the next session of the Association to be held with the Cahaba church, Trussville Station, A. & C. railroad, Jefferson county, Ala., commencing on Saturday before the 1st Sabbath in October, 1877. Elder G. T. Lee to preach the introductory sermon, Elder E. B. Waldrop, alternate. Elder A. J. Waldrop to preach the missionary sermon; Elder J. H. Weatherly, alternate.

On motion agreed to hold at our next session a mass-meeting on Sabbath at 2½ o'clock P. M. in the interest of education. R. W. Beck was elected to deliver an educational address at that hour; R. J. Waldrop, alternate.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are hereby tendered to the people of Pleasant Ridge church for their kindness and hospitalities shown to the delegates during their stay among them.

On motion, the clerk was appointed to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes, and that he have ten dollars for his services.

After some remarks, prayer was offered by the Moderator, and the Association adjourned to meet at the time and place appointed.

A. J. WALDROP, Moderator.

E. B. WALDROP, Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Baptised	Rec'd by Letter	Dismissed	Excluded	Restored	Deceased	Total in Fellowship	For Minutes	For State and Foreign Missions	To Willis Burns Ind. Miss.	For S. S. P.	Church expenses.
Ruhama	A J Waldrop	22	4	2				127	$2 40	$	10 25	20	
Cahaba	" "		8	8	2		2	184	7 55	12 50		30	214 50
Village Creek†	A White												
Salem	E B Waldrop	4	6	1	3			84	2 0*				
Bir'h'm Church	A J Waldrop	9	19	3	5		1	42	2 00				
Rock Creek†	A White	9		3	2	6		63					
Canaan	James Grimes	11	5	3		1	1	63					
Mt Zion	A J Waldrop	1	3	6				113	4 00		9 00	$3	146 60
Sulphur Spring	E B Waldrop		2	19			2	53	4 00				
New Prospect	H G Smith							15	1 60				
Good Hope	W J McCrarey		1	4	1			50	3 75				
Antioch	H G Smith	2	3					28	1 95				
New Liberty	G T Lee		1	1			1	36	2 00				
P asant Ridg †	E B Waldrop		2	1	1			49					$79 00
Enon	W J Lee												
Honewell	" "												
Shady Grove	J Mills	17		3		1		35					
Ironton	A J Waldrop												
Chalybeate Spr'g	J Grimes	14	1					27	2 50				
Concord	H G Smith		8						1 55				

†These churches do not show in their letters what amounts they sent up for minutes and other purposes; and the committee on Finance failed to itemize in their report.